

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR 11 April 1952

SUBJECT SAG Filmfabrik Agfa Wolfen Supply Difficulties

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1.

a special meeting was held in

1952.

2. The chief topic of discussion was the shortage of critical dye stuffs,

indispensable to Wolfen's current production of photographic materials. Two items urgently needed were 300 kilograms of acid green (Säuregrün) and 600 kilograms of pan yellow (Pangelb). Normal suppliers of these items are Bayerwerke, **Leverkusen**, and Farbwerke Höchst. Höchst. The DDR's West Germany middleman to the Höchst and Leverkusen firms is Dr. (fnu) Bauer. Trade officials at the meeting reported that to date all efforts to obtain essential photographic supply items from the Leverkusen and Höchst firms have failed. Dr. Haberland, commercial head of the Höchst firm, informed DDR officials that Allied authorities had refused to approve such transactions. It was implied at the meeting that the Höchst and Leverkusen firms might be temporarily refusing to do business with the DDR in order to bring pressure to bear for the release of Dr. Wolf, former head of Leverkusen's branch office in Leipzig; Wolf disappeared last year and is believed to be imprisoned in the DDR.

3. Representatives of Filmfabrik Agfa Wolfen reported that their production program was being seriously curtailed by these shortages, and that it might be necessary to dismiss 1,000 employees in the near future.

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4. Agfa Wolfen's request to increase its production of X-ray and technical films in order to compensate for lagging production in other lines was refused by Dr. Bertsch. He pointed out that VEB Kodak-Koepenick was entirely able to fulfill the DDR's current requirements for X-ray and technical films and that 54,000 square meters of X-ray film is being exported to China in February 1952.
5. Agfa Wolfen's production is further being retarded by the lack of 69 tons of photogelatin from the Gelatinwerk-Goeppingen, Goeppingen.
6. The meeting [ ] was concluded with [ ] instructions to State Secretary Canter-Gilman to procure the materials necessary to Agfa Wolfen's production at any cost, possibly through triangular trade.

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